

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter



Volume 17 Issue 4

July - August 2009

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Westminster Police Department

8200 Westminster Blvd.
Westminster, CA 92683
Emergencies Call 911

Business Line:
714-898-3315

Dispatch Ext: 326
Traffic Division Ext. 339
Records Bureau Ext. 371

Business Hours:
Sunday- Saturday
7:00a.m. – 7:00p.m.

Website:
[www.westminster-
ca.gov/depts/police](http://www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police)

TRAVEL CRIME PREVENTION TIPS



A security-wise traveler needs to learn how to travel safely. This awareness begins with a realization that the traveler must take reasonable precautions to protect him or herself, their family and personal property.

The following are a series of crime prevention tips or recommendations that should be embraced and adopted by travelers.

Parking At a Hotel

- Park your car in a well-lit area close to the lobby or use valet parking.
- Do not park in a space with your room number on it, if possible.
- Before getting out of your vehicle, check your surroundings for suspicious looking people.
- When you get out, lock your vehicle. Do not leave valuables in the vehicle or in the trunk.

Checking In

- Always make reservations ahead of time and secure them with a credit card. Otherwise, if desirable facilities are not available, you may become stranded or have to seek shelter in an unsafe room.
- Register with your business address rather than your home address.
- Advise the front desk never to release your room number.

Room Location

- If the hotel has more than one building, request a room in or near the main building.
- Request a room that faces inward toward other rooms or toward the lobby.
- Request a room that does not have easy access to its windows, such as from the roof or street.
- If you are a woman traveling alone, request the concierge or key service floor, if there is one.

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Travel Tips (Continued)

When You Arrive at Your Room

- Particularly if you are staying in a hotel or motel more than one night, unpack and place belongings in the room closet or dresser. Arrange your belongings so you will know if something is missing.
- Never leave money, checks, credit cards, car keys or valuables in a hotel or motel room. Take them with you.
- Maintain a daily check of your belongings.
- Lock your empty suitcases so they cannot be used to carry your belongings out of your room.
- Do not enter your room if someone appears to be watching or loitering nearby. Walk confidently by such people, but not into a dead end. Go where there are other people. If that is not possible, enter your room quickly and report your concerns to the front desk.



Valuables

- If you have valuables or important documents (e.g., a passport or airline ticket), store them in a safety deposit box at the front desk and get a receipt.
- Use an in-room safe to store only items of moderate value. Large sums of money and jewelry should be placed in the safe at the front desk.
- If there is not an in-room safe, put valuables in a money belt you wear, or possibly bring a "portable safe" such as hollow books, shoes with hollow heels, suitcases with secret compartments, etc.



Telephone Tips

- Learn how to use the room telephone to summon help in the event of an emergency.
- Learn the number for the front desk.
- Learn how to call 911.

- Memorize your room number and the name of the hotel.
- Read any information on the face of the telephone, if available.
- If you receive unwanted, harassing or threatening calls hang up immediately and notify the front desk.

General Hotel Safety Recommendations



- Keep your room key in a safe place, such as pinned to the inside of your pocket. Keep plastic key cards in your wallet.
- Request a key that does not have your room number on it.
- Report missing or lost keys immediately and move to a different room.
- Use the door viewer to identify anyone requesting entry. Open the door only if you are certain the person has a legitimate reason to enter your room. If in doubt, call the front desk.
- Completely close the room curtains, especially in the evening if you will be away from the room for some time.
- Do not leave magazines around your room or the pool that have your home address on them.
- Ask the front desk staff for the safest areas for jogging, walking, shopping, etc. Ask for a map of the area you are staying in.
- Hang the "Do Not Disturb" sign on the outside door knob when you exit, and leave a light and radio on. These discourage burglars.



COMMUNITY ALERT

Recently, Westminster Police Department has received numerous calls regarding address curbs painters attempting to collect payment for services rendered without receiving prior consent from homeowners.

Please be advised that you are not obligated to pay for the service if you did not come to an agreement before the work was done.

Auto Theft Prevention

Motor vehicle theft is a serious problem in many parts of the world. In the United States, the annual loss from car theft is over \$4 billion. The Automotive Information Council reports that over one million motor vehicles are stolen in the U.S. each year. That's one motor vehicle theft every 31 seconds.

MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Lock it and pocket the keys. Nearly 20% of all vehicles stolen have the keys in them. Remember to lock the trunk, the hatchback, or the tailgate or a station wagon or sport utility vehicle (SUV).
- If your motor vehicle is an older model, replace standard door lock buttons with tapered ones. These replacements are inexpensive and much more difficult to pry up.
- If you use self-service gasoline station or convenience stores, don't leave the keys in the vehicle when you go inside to pay.
- If possible, avoid parking next to vans, pick-ups or other large vehicles. These large vehicles can "hide" your vehicle and make it more difficult for others to observe.
- Periodically check your license plates to make sure they haven't been stolen, switched or altered.
- Whenever possible, park in well lighted and busy areas.



WESTMINSTER PARK WATCH



The Community Services and Recreation Department, in cooperation with the Public Works and Police Departments is initiating **PARK WATCH WESTMINSTER** as an enhancement to the Westminister Police Department's successful Neighborhood Watch program this summer. **This partnership depends on YOU**, the dedicated neighborhood watch community, to be our eyes and ears at your neighborhood parks, as well as your neighborhoods.

We need your help reporting maintenance and safety issues at the parks, so we can get things fixed quickly. If you see any problems or concerns in your neighborhood park, you can make a big difference by reporting them to us right away. Prompt attention will help keep issues to a minimum.

As always, we do not want you involved in any enforcement type situations. If you observe illegal behavior while in the park (e.g. vandalism or graffiti in progress, public drinking, drug use, etc.) call 911.

If you observe park maintenance problems (e.g. graffiti, excessive trash, broken sprinklers, damaged restrooms) call Public Works Park Maintenance at 714-895-2876 or fax the information to 714-373-5328.

Together, we can improve the quality, safety, and beauty of our parks and playgrounds for the entire community's enjoyment. 🐶

City of Westminster Department Directory

Animal Control:
714-898-3315 Ext. 365

Chamber of Commerce:
714-898-9648

City Hall:
714-898-3311

Code Enforcement:
714-893-3311

Consumer Affairs:
714-952-5210

Fair Housing Department:
714-569-0823

Family Resource Center:
714-903-1331

Graffiti Hotline:
714-895-2876

Health Department:
714-677-3600

West Justice Center:
714-896-7111

Recruitment:
714-898-3315 Ext. 395

Westminster Senior Center:
714-895-2878

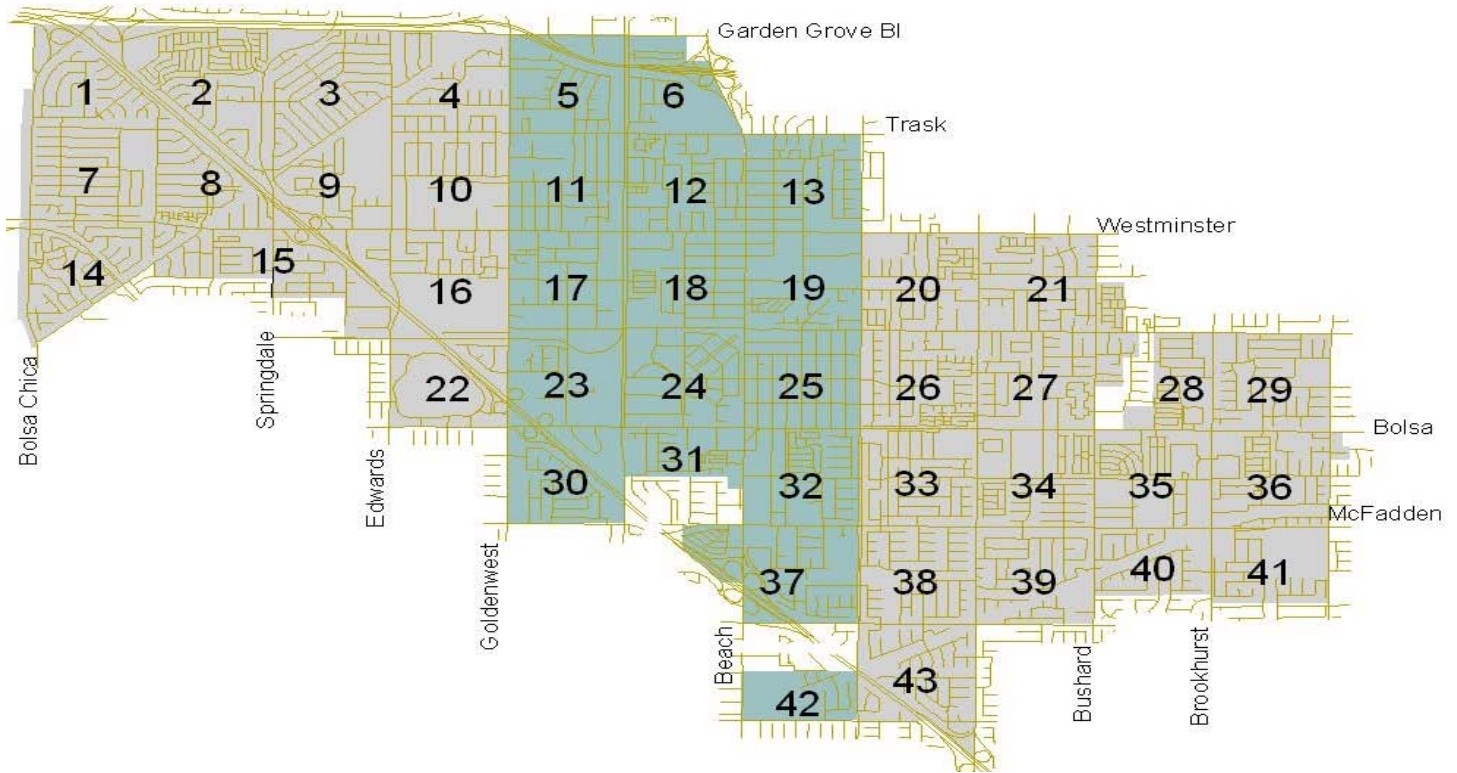
Vector Control:
714-971-2421



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Watch Newsletter online at:*

<http://www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police/community>

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER



RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES

A R E A	MAY	JUNE	YTD	LAST YEAR	A R E A	MAY	JUNE	YTD	LAST YEAR	A R E A	MAY	JUNE	YTD	LAST YEAR
1	0	0	1	2	16	1	0	2	2	31	0	0	0	2
2	1	4	6	4	17	0	0	1	3	32	0	0	0	0
3	2	0	5	4	18	3	1	5	0	33	0	2	5	7
4	1	0	4	2	19	0	0	0	3	34	0	3	3	4
5	0	0	0	3	20	3	1	6	14	35	1	0	4	6
6	0	0	0	4	21	1	0	4	17	36	2	2	6	8
7	1	1	4	4	22	0	0	0	0	37	0	0	1	1
8	2	0	4	2	23	0	0	0	0	38	0	0	0	4
9	1	0	2	5	24	0	0	0	0	39	1	1	5	0
10	0	1	4	5	25	0	0	0	0	40	1	0	2	1
11	0	0	2	4	26	1	1	2	5	41	1	0	2	3
12	0	1	3	2	27	1	0	2	7	42	0	0	0	0
13	1	0	3	4	28	2	0	4	8	43	1	2	4	3
14	2	0	5	4	29	2	1	4	4					
15	0	3	3	7	30	2	0	4	1					

	MAY	JUNE	YTD
TOTAL BURGLARIES	52	42	112

This newsletter is published bimonthly. It is compiled and edited by Ja'Nelle Belton, WPD Police Service Officer- Community Relations.